THE COMIC READER #19

September 9, 1963 Circulation: 1000

This news can't wait. I wasn't going to put out this issue of TCR until I had finished all work on the DC INDEX and had it in the mail, but this news is too hot to keep. The real Captain America is coming back. He'll debut in AVENGERS #4 in a spectacular story the likes of which you have yet to see. The setting for the story is perfect, the action superb, the story the best that Lee and Kirby can give. You'll approve of everything about this story, including the important role played by the Sub-Mariner in the return of Captain America. The motivation, the characterization, and the plot will win the accolades of fans, new and old. There are surprizes in store for you that I'm just bursting to reveal, but I won't. Mark my words, this issue--in fact, every issue of THE AVENGERS from now on--is going to steal the glory away from THE FANTASTIC FOUR and other super-groups, unless they shape up real fast. What more can I say??!!

There is not much other news at this time, so this will be a brief issue, in order that I can get right back to work on the D.C. Index. No one is more anxious than I am to see this work in the mail. I have been working steadily on it for many weeks now, and on and off for over a year. I'm doing all of the production work myself, so this is why it is taking so long. I appreciate the fact that everyone has been waiting so patiently. It won't be long now; it is hard to predict an exact mailing date, but I'm sure it will be ready and in the hands of the postman before the last official day of summer. All the data are on masters (29 of them), and have been proof-read three times. Right now I'm putting the drawings on masters. This is slow work for me, even when I am just tracing. I had to abandon my original plan for the art on the Index; I hope no one will be too disappointed. Instead of original fan art, I am reproducing drawings of 40 of D.C.'s costumed heroes from the issues indexed. This first volume of the Index covers 20 D.C. titles introduced before 1945, and carries them through to May, 1963, exactly 25 years from the time Superman was introduced in ACTION COMICS. If you order before Sept. 21, you may still get the Index (i.e. vol. 1) for $1.00. After that date this copyrighted Index will go up to $1.50, mainly because I'll have to go through and prepare the masters all over again. Believe me, this is work!!!

THE COMIC READER is published by Jerry Bails, 22529 Karam Ct., Warren, Michigan, where anyone is welcome to lend a hand.

OTHER ITEMS IN THE NEWS:

The second FANTASTIC FOUR ANNUAL will feature a tour of Marvel Comics and will have pics of the staff. Let's hope they show us something besides the backs of their hands.

Editor Murry Boltinoff says, "Tingling thrills await readers of TOMAHAWK, who'll find their hero changed into "The Terrible Tree Man," in Nov.-Dec. #89. In that same issue, Dan Hunter lends an assist to Tomahawk's rip-roaring rangers.

In HOUSE OF SECRETS #63 (Nov.-Dec.), another Mark Merlin mystery awaits his fans, under the title "Menace of the Nightmare Nest."

In the January LOIS LANE #46, there will be a 3-part "imaginary novel" which is a sequel to 1962's big hit, "The Wife of Superman's Foe," in which Lois married a reformed Lex Luthor. In this continuation, Lois' son, Larry Luthor, becomes the top criminal on Earth, and plans to succeed where his father failed--i.e., he will liquidate Superman!

December ADVENTURE COMICS #315 features a 2-parter, "The Legionnaires' Super-Contest," in which the Legion of Super-Heroes sponsors a contest to decide which member of the Legion of Substitute Heroes will be made a permanent member of the real Legion. ADVENTURE #316 (Jan.) will present a special bonus feature: four pages devoted to the origins of all 21 members of the Legion. (Didn't we just see this in an annual?)

December BATMAN #160 features 2 big adventures, "The Alien Boss of Gotham City" and "The New Crimes of the Mad Hatter."

In December DETECTIVE COMICS #322, Batman undergoes a startling transformation in "The Menace of the Batman Genie." Also in this issue: "The Man Who Destroyed J'onn J'onzz."

"Secret of the Captured Caveman" is the title of the super-length Superman-Batman story in December WORLD'S FINEST #188. It takes place in the past on another planet. Co-featured is another Green Arrow story, "The Secret Face of Funny Arrow."

December BLACKHAWK #191 will be telling us some "Tales of the Blackhawk Emblem" and the "Menace of the Molecule Man." (The first of these stories could be something if it gave us stories in the old Blackhawk tradition.)

In a departure from the usual book-length formula (Their word, not mine), the Nov.-Dec. AQUAMAN #12 features 2 novelettes: "The Cosmic Gladiators" and "Menace of the Land-Sea Beasts."

Watch for Space Ranger's girl Friday, in Dec-Jan. UNEXPECTED #80, where the pretty Myra Mason (Remember this name, Dr. Mid-nite fans?) turns into the "Queen of the Cat-Men!"

In Nov.-Dec. RIP HUNTER #17, the famed Time Master and his intrepid team go back in time on a "Track of the Wizard's Beast," where they learn a thing or two about black magic.

MORE ITEMS IN THE NEWS:

Murry Boltinoff reports that the Doom Patrol seems to be marching on to new heights of popularity, judging by the flood of readers' letters pouring in.

Fred Ray, TOMAHAWK artist, is planning to visit Europe again on another water-coloring tour.

Bruno Premiani, DOOM PATROL artist, is preparing a book for publication next spring. Subject: Horses.

Mort Weisinger reports: The theme of the 8th SUPERMAN ANNUAL, to appear shortly before Christmas, will be devoted to "untold stories and secret origins." Coming soon: a 3-part Superman epic by Edmond Hamilton, which reveals that the infamous villain, Brainiac, is not a mortal but a computer-machine. (I wonder what this does to Brainiac's descendent in the Legion of Super-Heroes?)

THE NEW YORK TIMES reports that those two fabulous radio shows THE GREEN HORNET and THE SHADOW are being syndicated to radio stations across the country. Others coming: THE AVENGERS and THE CLOCK.

Artransa Park Television, subsidiary of Sydney, Australia, channel ATN7 has been commissioned by a major American animation production agency to produce 25 cartoons for 2 new TV series for world distribution. 18 of the cartoons will be "Beetle Bailey". The remaining 7 will be "Krazy Kat" -- yes, KRAZY KAT. The cartoons will be in full color and run about 5½ minutes each. Artransa won the contract with King Features TV Syndicate despite competition from major production studios from all parts of the world!!!

Watch for Howard Cassel's Aquaman-Hawkman story in BRAVE AND BOLD #51. The cover is reported to be a masterpiece.

Coming back: INSIDE EARTH (Cave Carson), with a double twist: Art not by Kubert or Meskin but by Lee Elias, and it won't appear in BRAVE AND BOLD, it will appear in SHOWCASE.

Here's the lowdown on TUROK, SON OF STONE. The creator (even under Dell) was Matt Murphy, current Editor-in-chief at Gold Key. The original and still current writer is Gifford DuBois. The original artist, who still works on it occasionally, is Rex Naxon, but Albert Giolitti has done a larger percentage of the art. Giolitti's masterpiece, FREEDOM AGENT, still awaits sales reports. EXTRA: Hit Gold Key with every cotton-pickin' idea you can; I understand that this is the time of year when the '64 program is being outlined.

Dell editor Don Arneson won't release the names of his writers, so I asked him to at least assign a pen-name to his BRAIN BOY writer and identify some of his other comics stories. No reply as yet.

Dell's GHOST STORIES #1 had a cover which was an original wood carving. This was a FIRST for Dell; was it a first for the industry?

MORE ITEMS IN THE NEWS: (Looks like this is gonna be a big issue after all.)

For the record, art credits on BLACKHAWK go to Richard Dillin (pencils) and Charles Cuidera (inks). I'm not sure but haven't these gentlemen been on the strip since the days when BLACKHAWK was Quality property?

The title of the Jan. WONDER WOMAN is "Terror Trees of Forbidden Island." The only thing really impossible for this comic is for it to return to its superb stories of 1942.

January SUPERMAN features a return of Nightwing and Flamebird, the heroes in a bottle.

The Jan. JIMMY OLSEN sees Jimmy become another Mr. Mxyzptlk.

FANTASTIC MONSTERS #6--on sale after you ask your magazine dealer to order copies--will feature an article on the Shadow, illustrated with movie stills, a photo of a radio Shadow, the cover and an interior page from SHADOW COMOCS #1, and a cover from one of the pulp mags. The text refers to the Shadow's comic-book appearances.

Gold Key has started work on a book based on the new John Wayne movie, McLINTOCK. Credits: Dick Wood, script; Mike Sekowsky, pencils; Mike Peppe, inks. Editor Bill Harris reports after reading the movie script that it is a really different western.

The next DOCTOR SOLAR 9on sale in Dec.) was written by Otto Binder. WELCOME back, Otto, we're very happy to have you back writing comics again. I hope this is a long run. I'm sure Frank Bolle's art will be a credit to your script.

A new Gold Key title, STEVE ZODIAC and the FIREBALL XL-5, will go on sale in October. The book is based on a new TV show coming in the fall. The show is done by the people who produce Supercar, and features realistic puppet characters. The comic will be done in a realistic rather than an animated style. Credits: Paul Newman, script; Mel Crawford, art.

Gold Key's letter departments have increased both the volume and quality of their mail. Issue #4 of Magnus carries the first of their series of reader pages in that title. Don't miss the special subscription offers in all the regular GK books. No subs are available for the first issues of the new titles KORAK, SON OF TARZAN and JOHN CARTER OF MARS, but look for them on the stands right after Christmas. The sale date of MANDRAKE is now an unknown, but it is still in the works.

News Credits this issue: Ronn Foss (who deserves more than just my thanks), Larry Sipe, Fred Landesman, John Page, Ron Haydock, Paul Gambaccini, George Pacinda, Steve Keisman, Maris Cizevskis of Tasmania, the pro editors of course, and last but not least Ron Fradkin, who cops a prize for his scoops this month-- a collection of photos of rare first-issue covers. Keep those news items coming. They are the very life-blood of TCR.

SPECIAL NOTICES AND REMINDERS:

(1) If you would like to be listed inthe first WHO'S WHO IN COMICDOM, please fill out the questionnaire which appeared in TCR #18 and return it P.D.Q. to the address below. (Do this even if you only want your name and address listed.) An extra copy of the questionnaire can be had for an s.a.e. Let's see if we can get all these questionnaires in by Oct. 15. Anyone who misses this go-around will just have to wait for a supplement or second edition to appear.

(2) TCR is mailed out automatically to pros whose home addresses I have, to fans on other continents (or "off" of them as the case may be), to faneds with whom I have trade agreements, and to (what must remain) a limited number of other fans who are especially deserving. All others must request each issue.

(3) To request TCR, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the address below. IMPORTANT: Because TCR usually runs 10 pages or more, your return envelope must be at least 9 inches long and carry 10¢ postage (16¢ for air mail). PLEASE request only one issue at a time, and by number if at all possible. The size and frequency of TCR may vary, but these instructions will NOT.

(4) TCR's advertising policy, rates, and deadline will be supplied upon request.

(5) Please plug TCR whenever and wherever you can--in your letters, in your fanzines, in your letter departments. I'll keep TCR going as long as there is another fan out there who is interested. Right now it looks like there are about 1000. Let's see if we can't make it 5000 in '64.

(5) There is no report from the New York group planning a COMICON in 1964. There are some differences which must be resolved before these fans can get together on a time and site. It is important that they work together; all COMICDOM is counting on them.

(6) Ronn Foss reports that the 1962 Alley Awards will be forthcoming any day now. He regrets,as do we all, the long delay. In order to speed next year's balloting and report, I'm urging all fans to respond to my questions in this year's REPORT just as soon as they can. I'm standing by ready to prepare the ballots for the ACADEMY'S BOARD OF NOMINATORS as soon as I have COMICDOM'S opinions on a number of matters. The final ballots will be in the mail by the first of the year.

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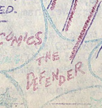

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Marvel Family #2 (With 3 Lt. Marvels & Uncle Marvel)
—Marvel #8 (Angel)
—Marvel #82 (Human Torch and Sub-Mariner intro. Namora)
Master #22 (Bulletman & Capt. Marvel Jr. vs. Capt. Nazi)
—Miss America #1 (All Winners Squad member)
Spy Smasher #1
—Sun Girl #1 (Marvel heroine)
—U.S.A. #6 (Capt. America)
—Young Men #24 (Reintroducing Torch, Namor, Capt. America)

Drop me a card if you are interested in the print offers that were made earlier.

ATTENTION

DEALERS and COLLECTORS

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I've been criticized for offering too much for rare old comics. Perhaps I should explain that the figure I quoted was an absolute maximum that I would pay, but only for a truly MINT copy of the rarest of the rare comics from 25 years ago. I ordinarily buy at the prices quoted by the well-established and reasonable dealers, such as Bill Thailing, Claude Held, and Charles Crum. I support the principle that prices should be stabilized, but like everyone else, I know of no easy solution to inflation that is both effective and consistent with the American economic concept of freedom from price controls. Of course, we could cut off new sources of demand for old comics by making Comicdom an exclusive affair, but I haven't heard anyone make this suggestion out loud, and let it be clearly understood that I do not support it. Meanwhile I have my own little economic problem to solve--Where can I find my own little mail train to rob, in order to support this terrible habit I've got of collecting old comics. I'm looking for all those listed in the column at the right. In addition to the green stuff, I've got a few pretty rare comics I can offer in trade. These trade items were listed in TCR #18, so I won't repeat them here. I also have some beautiful original art items I'll part with for the right deal. These include Tarzan, Flash, Doctor Solar, Brothers of the Spear, Superman, JLA, Turok, Prof. Harbinger, and others. I'm looking for art from many other strips. Thanks for listening.

Action #1, 42-52, 59, 68, 100, 136, 156, 164, 191, 209, 218, 223, 241-251.
Adventure #40-44, 47-52, 77-78, 81-82,252-266, 286-299.
All-American #34, 99.
All-Flash #18.
Batman #1-3, 8, 63.
Comic Cavalcade #5-8, 26.
Detective #27-40, 47, 53-55, 60-83, 138, 205, 225-232, 241, 260-264.
Flash #4-11, 20-24, 32, 65-66, 86, 94-96, 99, 104.
More Fun #52-53, 60, 64, 66, 70.
Sensation #23-24.
Star Spangled #12-20, 23-27.
Superman #1, 17, 28, 74, 78, 88, 123-129.
Wonder Woman #14, 100-102.
World's Fair 1939.
World's Finest #2, 10-13, 72, 74, 80, 82-83, 91, 93-94.

All Winners #20 (If there was one)
Blue Bolt #1, 13.
Boy #3.
Boy Commandos #2, 4.
Capt. America #1, 16.
Capt. Marvel #1, 35.
Catman #1, 8.
Daring #1, 7-8.
Exciting #15.
Four Favorites #1.
Hit #26.
Human Torch #8, 10, 33.
Jackpot #1.
Marvel Family #3-4.
Marvel Mystery #1-22.
Master #50.
Mystic #1, 6.
Pocket #1.
Prize #24, 27-37.
Skyman #1.
Speed #1, 15.
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Detroit, Mich.

HAVE YOU HEARD THE NEWS ABOUT The MASQUERADER!

Hello there, fans!Welcome to the world of the Masquerader. I hope you enjoy reading over this short ad and will show some interest in the contents.

For almost a year now Masquerader has been presented to fans as a 30-38 page dittographed fanzine selling for a quarter and presented on a somewhat shaky bi - monthly schedule. Soon, that description will be nothing more than a memory.You see,starting with next issue,Mask is going to be printed photo-offset.Yes,PHOTO OFFSET!!!

First off, the price of the magazine, due to the very much increased cost of printing, will be doubled. But even tho Mask will now cost 50¢ I am sure you fans will not com - plain when you see the beautiful results of this type of printing.Those of you who have seen Ronn Foss' or Jerry Bails fantastic work on Alter - Ego know what to expect from lithographed/photo-offset work.

Putting out a printed zine is much more difficult than publishing a dittoed zine.Instead of just typing and drawing on a stencil, articles have to be planned precisely for now much space they will take up,roughly typed...then a good copy typed,then arranged on a large size layout page, then glued, etc. Because of this, the bi-monthly schedule must be dropped.But if all goes well,I will try to present Mask as,at least, a quarterly.

Issue #6,the first issue to be printed this way, will have 32 pages, but since the work is originally done on 16½" x 12½" sheets before it is reduced to the 8½" x 11" paper by this printing process,I will be able to get on these thirty two pages material that would fill well over forty-some pages if I ran it on the ditto.

Now that I have explained to you most of the preliminaries of this type of printing and the publication of Masquerader I suppose I should get on to what is going to be featured in this next issue.

First off, Ronn Foss is doing a beautiful color cover which will present a shot of the Cowl, the fighting hero who appears within the issue in a strip written by myself (Mike Vosburg) and illoed by one of fandom's top artists, Ronn Foss. Since the origin of the Cowl first appeared in issue #1 with this same team behind him, all the fans who read it have been clamoring for his return. So, he is back,and I hope you enjoy it.

Besides the regular features, such as The Masquerader Speaks there will be six great articles by top writers in this upcoming issue. I've tried to have a variety so as to please more readers; and so, in issue #6: Joe Kubert, King of Illustrators,by Scott Russell;E.C. the New Trend, by Ed Lahmann ; The Raven,Australia's Fighting Hero,by Glen Johnson; Batman's Rogues Gallery, by L. L. Simpson; A History of Ace Publications. by Ray Miller; and What Has Happened to Disney Comics, by Dick West. For a complete lineup of the artists and other features involved, be sure to read over the back of this sheet.

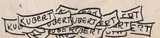
And now, I am finished briefing you on Mask...the rest is up to you,fans.I'll be looking for your order for #6 tomorrow! So long,sincerely,

Mike Vosburg

SPECIAL NOTICES:MASQUERADER #5 is now printed and ready for sale.34 pages only 25¢. Order now...only 40 copies left.

Issue #2 and #3 of Mask are still available for 40¢ each . Hurry,they won't last long!!!!

Now that Russ Heath has left D.C. that company is holding a contest to determine which artist is most capable of handling SEA DEVILS". Among the group of Calan, Andru and Esposito, and Joe Kubert it is evident that Kubert far outshines them all. Even tho we won't be able to see Kubert's fantastic work on Hawkman, we may still be able to see his work on this semi-super- hero group if we get going and back him.Write today to National and send in your vote for fandom's favorite, Joe Kubert!!



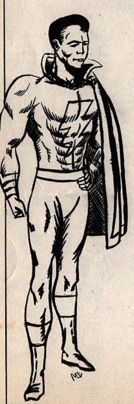
NONE but the BEST!

To the left of this column is a picture of two of fandom's top artists: Biljo White (l.) and Ronn Foss (r.). Their work, as well as the work of Grass Green, Alan Weiss, etc., appears regularly in MASQUERADER. You will notice that all of the aforementioned artists are the best there are in fandom...and all the art they turn out is par excellence.

Not only with art, but also with writing Mask is trying to achieve the highest possible goal. In other words, we are striving for quality......top quality. This aim of ours we felt could not be reached by merely the 'dittograph' method of printing. We want to present to fandom the highest type of quality possible, until we are at least on a level with the pro's. And so, feeling as we do about this effort Mask is now switching to the photo-offset or litho method of printing. We trust that you will not be even slightly disappointed when you see the amazing results of this change in the upcoming issue of Mask.

Though it is a great enjoyment to the editor to see Mask improve in these ways, it is you, fans, who we are trying to please. We hope you appreciate our efforts on Mask and will stick with us...while Mask climbs upward. finus

PHOTO-OFFSET REPRODUCTION!!!



MASQUERADER #6

Featuring

COLOR cover with THE COWL as drawn by Ronn Foss!!!

Interesting news of Fandom as your editor speaks out in THE MASQUERADER SPEAKS!!!

JOE KUBERT, KING OF ILLUSTRATORS...written by Scott Russell and illustrated by Ronn Foss!!!

THE RAVEN, AUSTRALIA'S FIGHTING HERO...written by Glen Johnson and illustrated by Mike Vosburg!!!

E.C., THE NEW TREND...written by Ed Lahmann with reproductions of E.C. art!!!

THE COWL RETURNS in an action-packed story written by Vosburg and illustrated by Foss!!!

THE ROGUES GALLERY OF BATMAN...written by L. L. Simpson!!!

A HISTORY OF ACE PUBLICATIONS...an interesting account of the company that published Capt. Courageous, Unknown Soldier, and so many others; written by Raymond Miller and illustrated by Grass Green!!!

WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO DISNEY COMICS?...is the questioned asked by Dick West in this offbeat article covering the fantastic work of Carl Barks.

***PLUS...pictures of pro's, top fans, etc!!!
***PLUS...art by Biljo White, Alan Weiss, and other great artists!!!
***PLUS...A SPECIAL SURPRISE FOR ALL FANDOM!!!

Only 50¢!!! Write now to: Mike Vosburg
3040 Avalon
Pontiac, Michigan
48057